

## Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3276

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ADDIS ABABA 2046

STATE FOR AF/E: AMBASSADOR HUMMEL

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, ET

SUBJ: AFRO-AMERICAN HISTORY CELEBRATION

1. FROM MARCH 5 TO 7 USIS ADDIS ABABA WILL SPONSOR A PROGRAM IN SUPPORT OF AFRO-AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE WHICH WILL INCLUDE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION BY ECA, OAU, CARIBBEAN EMBASSIES, ETHIOPIAN HISTORIANS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. PRINCIPAL PLANNED EVENTS ARE DESCRIBED BELOW.

2. AT 6:30 WEDNESDAY EVENING, MARCH 5, WILL BE THE OPENING AT THE ECA OF EXHIBIT OF TRADITIONAL AFRICAN ART AND THE PHOTOGRAPHS OF BLACK AMERICAN CHESTER HIGGINS. THE PROGRAM WILL FEATURE A 14-MINUTE FILM "RIGHT ON/BE FREE" ABOUT BLACK AMERICANS' CULTURAL SELF-AWARENESS AND ONE OR TWO FILMS ABOUT AFRICA TO BE SUPPLIED BY ECA. IF AVAILABLE, OAU SECRETARY GENERAL ETEKI IS EXPECTED TO SPEAK IN SUPPORT OF THE EXHIBIT AND THE AFRO-AMERICAN CELEBRATION. IF AMBASSADOR HUMMEL HAS PRESENTED HIS CREDENTIALS BY THAT DATE, HIS PRESENCE AND A FEW APPROPRIATE REMARKS WOULD BE MOST DESIRABLE. (WE ESTIMATE THAT HE COULD PROBABLY PRESENT HIS CREDENTIALS TWO OR THREE DAYS AFTER ARRIVAL HERE.) THE INVITATIONAL AUDIENCE WILL INCLUDE ECA, OAU, AND ETHIOPIAN HIGH OFFICIALS AND MEMBERS OF THE AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC CORPS.

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3. ON THURSDAY, MARCH 6, AT 8:00 P.M. WE HAD HOPED THAT AMBASSADOR HUMMEL WOULD HOST AT THE RESIDENCE A SPECIAL SHOWING OF THE FEATURE FILM "SOUNDER" FOR AFRICAN AMBASSADORS AND SENIOR ETHIOPIAN OFFICIALS. (THIS FILM, WHICH HAS BEEN NOMINATED FOR SEVERAL ACADEMIC AWARDS, DEPICTS IN STARK TERMS RURAL SOUTHERN BLACK LIFE DURING THE DEPRESSION YEARS.) HOWEVER, SINCE WE CANNOT BE CERTAIN THAT AMBASSADOR HUMMEL WILL HAVE PRESENTED HIS CREDENTIALS BY THIS TIME, WE WILL PLAN, UNLESS ADVISED TO THE CONTRARY, TO PRESENT THIS FILM TO THE SAME AUDIENCE THAT EVENING AT THE USIS AUDITORIUM.

4. ON FRIDAY, MARCH 7, AT 5:00 P.M. THERE WILL BE A PANEL DISCUSSION IN AFRICA HALL BRINGING TOGETHER BLACK HISTORIAN STAG DR. REDDICK, SENIOR OFFICIALS FROM ECA, OAU AND RELEVANT ETHIOPIAN MINISTRIES, AND THE AMBASSADOR OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO TO DISCUSS "TWENTIETH CENTURY BLACK HISTORY" BEFORE AN INVITATION AUDIENCE OF ECA, OAU AND ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

5. IN ADDITION TO THE FOREGOING THERE WILL BE A SERIES OF PRIVATE MEETINGS FOR DR. REDDICK WITH ETHIOPIAN HISTORIANS AND AUTHORS, AS WELL AS INVITATIONAL AFTER-NOON SHOWINGS OF "SOUNDER" AND "TO BE YOUNG, GIFTED AND BLACK" AT USIS CENTER FOR ETHIOPIAN PRIMARY AUDIENCES.

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